

How is it that the Fed can create trillions of dollars to give to the banks but the U.S. can't meet its needs without going into debt to banks? The financial system works for a few at the expense of the many.

The Founders did not intend for America to be run by big banks and Wall Street. The Constitution put the ability to create money in the hands of Congress. The Fed took away that power in 1913. We need to get that power back to invest in our economy, to create jobs, to put America back to work, to rebuild America without going into debt. We must reclaim our destiny by reclaiming control over the money system.

THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Many people didn't notice that a little over 3 weeks ago, the Medicare Trustees Report came out and advised that the Medicare program would in be serious difficulty in the year 2023.

Now you might ask, What is Congress doing about this? We have well over 10 years to react. The Republican budget that was passed a few weeks ago did indeed lay out a pathway for dealing with the problems in the future. Unfortunately, the Democratic leadership in the other body has decided not to take up any type of roadmap or pathway that may lead to a resolution of this problem.

So we are left with the program that was essentially laid out by the President in the Affordable Care Act, and this program relies heavily upon a group called the Independent Payment Advisory Board: 15 people, not elected but appointed by the President, well paid to sit on a board and to deliver to Congress every year a menu of cuts in the amount of money that Medicare may spend.

Now, Congress, true enough, has the ability to accept or reject this menu of cuts, but if Congress rejects it, it must come up with its own plan. If Congress does not agree—and when has that ever happened?—the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have the ability to institute those cuts as planned.

RECOGNIZING CONNOR GUNSBURY

(Mr. CRAVAACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAVAACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to an extraordinary young man from my district, Connor Gunsbury, an eighth grader from Forestview Middle School in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Connor has advanced to compete this week in the Scripps National Spelling Bee here in Washington, D.C., after passing an extensive writing exam and winning two spelling bees. He will join

257 students from around the country to vie for the honor of being named the country's greatest young speller.

Connor spends 4 hours a day studying his spelling while still remaining active at his church, various sports, playing the trombone in the All-Minnesota Honors Band, and serving his community participating in the Builders Club with his Kiwanis.

Madam Speaker, Connor Gunsbury is a shining example of what young people today can accomplish, and I wish the best as he moves forward in the competition.

MEDICARE

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Madam Speaker, over the past couple weeks, we've seen an increase in the false attacks on this House's plan to save Medicare for future generations and prevent America from falling into an abyss of debt and deficits. These falsehoods represent a new low in political attacks. And to those of you who are trying to scare this country's seniors, I say, Shame on you. America deserves better.

Before coming to Congress this year, I spent 25 years as a physician treating patients in northern Michigan, many of whom were on Medicare. I find it ridiculous that some on the other side of the aisle accuse us of wanting to hurt seniors. The fact is we put forth a plan that ensures our children and grandchildren will have access to Medicare and doesn't change benefits for those at or near retirement. These false attacks are nothing more than a smoke screen from the other side.

The Democrats' plan, ObamaCare, calls for bankruptcy and rationing.

I ask my colleagues on the other side to stop playing politics and do what the American people sent us here to do, work together and face reality.

□ 1410

BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the Federal Government's highest obligation is to provide for the physical and financial security of the people of the United States. Physical security begins with border security. And the people of Houston have just suffered the loss and tragic death of another Houston police officer, Officer Kevin Will, the sixth Houston police officer to lose his life at the hands of an illegal alien.

I will not rest, the Texas delegation will not rest until the southern border is secure to protect the people of Texas, the people of this Nation, from the drugs, the violence, the gangs, the

guns. The criminal element coming across the border has got to be stopped. This is not complicated. It begins with enforcing existing law, with using the resources we have at our disposal to open up sufficient beds to lock up every illegal alien that crosses the border. With the full support of the people that live along the border, with zero tolerance, we can do this. It's being done in Del Rio. It needs to be done up and down the river.

This Congress, this Appropriations Committee, and the new Republican conservative majority in the House is staying focused on this vital mission of national security, beginning with border security, to ensure that no more law officers like Officer Will, no more Americans lose their lives at the hands of illegal aliens.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

INCREASING STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1954) to implement the President's request to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1954

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDING.

The Congress finds that the President's budget proposal, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2012, necessitates an increase in the statutory debt limit of \$2,406,000,000,000.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking